Report on Pakistan's nuclear Self-Reliance

982. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 5th February, 1991 under the caption "Pakistan achieves nuclear self-reliance";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report claims that Pakistan will be using "Solution Mining" for recovering uranium from low grade deposits in sandy rocks.

(c) Government are aware of Pakistan's pursuit of a clandestine and weapons oriented nuclear programme. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Collaboration of private entrepreneurs with Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

983. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has launched a new scheme providing an opportunity to private entrepreneurs to collaborate with the telephone authorities in extending a variety of telecom facilities to the Public; and

(b) if so, the highlights thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) Yes Sir. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has launched a Telecom Centre franchise scheme with comprehensive telecom facilities for use by the Public, to be run by the private entrepreneurs in the cities of Delhi and Bombay.

(b) Highlights of the scheme are given in the Statement.

Statement

(a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has launched a Telecom. Centre franchise Scheme with comprehensive telecom facilities for use by the Public to be run by the private entrepreneurs in the cities of Delhi & Bombay.

(b) High lights of above scheme are as follows:

1. Telecom Centre will provide following facilities:

(i) Local & STD/ISD Public Telephone Service.

(ii) FAX service

(iii) Telex service.

With MTNL's approval Centre may also provide additional services like answering and messaging service, high speed data transmission, access to International data, etc.

2. An authorised Telecom Centre operating agency will have to pay Rs. 10,000 as non interest bearing refundable security. Over and above this they will have to pay additional charges/deposit for each service run by the Centre as under:

(i) Local/Public telephone:

Security deposit of Rs. 1800 will be required to be deposited in addition to ensuring a minimum guaranteed revenue of Rs. 300 per month.

(ii) STD/ISD telephone:

Security deposit of Rs. 9600 will be required to be deposited in addition to ensuring a minimum

guaranteed revenue of Rs. 1600 per month.

(ii) FAX service:

An annual licence fee of Rs. 15,000 is payable in addition to non-interest bearing security of Rs. 10,000.

(iv) Telex:

Security deposit of Rs. 10,000 is payable. No licence fee is charged currently. However, if a licence fee for commercial use of telex is prescribed by DOT/MTNL same will become applicable.

(3): Rates chargeable and commission payable:

(i) In case of FAX & telex rates charged by the operating agencies will be fixed by them and they will have to pay to MTNL depending on the calls metered on their telephone line in the exchange.

(ii) In case of local public telephone the agencies will be permitted to charge the public at the rate of Re. 1 per unit call. The operating agency will get as its share 40 paise per unit call in case of exclusive local payphones. In case of coin/card operated payphones with STD/ISD facility their share will be 20 paise per unit call as commission. For STD payphones with instruments other than coin/card operated type, sliding rates will be applicable i.e. 20 paise per unit metered call for the first 10000 calls, 10 paise for the next 5000 calls and 5 paise beyond 15000 calls.

Recommendations of National Shipping Board

984. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Shipping Board had recommended the implementation of the United Nationals Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s recommendations that 40 per cent of the internatinoal trade should be in national bottoms; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the recommendation of the Board and what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Report of the Athreya Committee for the Telecom Department

985. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Athreya Committee appointed for the reorganisation of the Telecom Department has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.